

prior art matrices to allow broadband transfers (Figure 4B) and narrowband transfers (Figure 4A); and

Enter the following paragraph replacing the paragraph at page 7, beginning at line

21:

B2 The input matrices  $211_i$  are organized so that the incoming flux of data at each input  $212_i$  can be directed to any matrix  $221_i$  of the outlet stage. In other words, a tree structure is used which can define N possible connections for each input and not more than N (N is the number of matrices in the outlet stage in this embodiment).

Enter the following paragraph replacing the paragraph at page 8, beginning at line

20:

B3 The links between the various stages are organized so that the flow received by each input of a matrix  $311_i$  of the inlet stage can be transmitted to any of the corresponding R matrices  $321_{i,1}$  through  $321_{i,R}$ . Similarly, each output of a matrix  $331_i$  can receive data from each matrix  $321_k$  of the central stage. To be more precise, each output link  $333_i$  can receive data from any of the R matrices  $321_{1,i}$  through  $321_{R,i}$ .

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows: